



# MEDIA ADVISORY

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## RECOVERY ACT WORK AVAILABLE IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

*LOCAL LICENSED CONTRACTORS AND ENERGY AUDITORS NEEDED FOR ARRA WEATHERIZATION JOBS*

**WHAT:** One-day contractor trainings and a five-day energy auditor training class are taking place in Johnson City for the state's Weatherization Assistance Program. Tennessee was awarded \$99 million for the home energy efficiency program for eligible citizens through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Department of Human Services and Tennessee Valley Authority have teamed up to provide federally-approved training for this program.

Individuals interested in performing Weatherization work must be certified in U.S. Department of Energy training. Contractors must also be licensed by the state of Tennessee. **Those interested in the TVA-sponsored trainings must pre-register before the classes begin. Space is limited, and those not registered are subject to being turned away. To register, call 1-877-830-3304.**

The Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency is the lead Weatherization agency for Upper East Tennessee, serving eight counties, including Sullivan, Washington, Greene, Hawkins, Hancock, Unicoi, Carter and Johnson Counties.

The UETHDA received \$7.24 million in Weatherization ARRA funds and is expected to weatherize more than 900 homes. To date, UETHDA has accepted more than 600 applications, but just under half of these have had the required pre-energy audit. More licensed contractors and energy auditors are needed to get the job done.

**WHEN:** Energy Auditor Training (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
February 1 - 5  
Contractor Training (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
February 9

**MORE:** **Registration is required for both classes.** For training location information and to register for a class licensed contractors and energy auditors can call toll free **1-877-830-3304**. Due to high demand, an automated system will direct callers to leave appropriate information and calls will be returned within 24 hours.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services administers the Weatherization program through a network of 18 local agencies. A change in program eligibility from 125% to 200% of poverty opens the program up to many more Tennesseans. Priority will still be given to the elderly, disabled and families with children under the age of 6-years old.

To learn more about the program, to apply for the program or to work on jobs in your community, visit [www.tn.gov/wap](http://www.tn.gov/wap)

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